

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, September 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman; Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist
Nathalie O'Shea, Emergency Preparedness Specialist
Denise Whisman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Daniel Williamson, Epidemiologist

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and Possible Direction on the current status of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Alicia Thompson, Ms. Montano, Ms. O'Shea and Mr. Williamson presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Montano reviewed COVID-19 trends for the County and state. Weekly trends show that the third wave of COVID-19 may be plateauing, and the number of fatalities is comparatively low. The Delta variant makes up 97% of the COVID-19 cases in the state with breakthrough cases of less than 1%.

Ms. O'Shea updated the Board on vaccine trends and availability in the County. Vaccination rates have slowed for all age ranges. There are no plans to open points of distribution (PODs) for third-dose boosters, and it is recommended to go to a primary care physician or pharmacy. She gave information on how to find available vaccines. The approval status, availability, and age recommendations were reviewed for different vaccine brands. In response to the Board, staff will provide more information about vaccine efficacy on variants and will invite Dr. McLaughlin to present at the next work session.

Mr. Williamson gave information on COVID-19 cases in schools across the County. Many schools are now meeting the Outbreak definition. Contact tracing is mostly being handled by schools with some support from the Health Department. Parents have

been given information regarding the Delta variant and isolation and quarantine guidance. All schools have been offered pool testing at no cost. The Board and staff discussed in-school testing and contact tracing requirements and responsibilities.

Dr. Thompson presented study results on mask efficacy. Findings show that reusable surgical masks are effective in reducing COVID-19 symptoms. There is a funding opportunity to provide free surgical masks to schools and students for optional use, and the Health Department hopes to present this to the Board for consideration in the near future. The Board and staff discussed different type of masks.

Chairman English recognized and thanked the Health Department for its work.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board